

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7184
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 1509

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, ECON, LE

SUBJECT: GOL RELEASES OFFICIAL ESTIMATES OF 1975-76 WAR LOSSES

1. GOL ON MARCH 15 RELEASED OFFICIAL ESTIMATES OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR LOSSES SUFFERED DURING 1975-76 WARFARE. FIGURES, PREPARED BY MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ARE TERMED PRELIMINARY. DOLLAR VALUES BELOW BASED ON EXCHANGE RATE OF \$U.S. 1 EQUALS LL 2.95.

2. DIRECT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR LOSSES TOTALED LL 7.5097 BILLION (\$ U.S. 2.504 BILLION).

-- PUBLIC SECTOR LOSSES: LL 1.3347 BILLION (\$ U.S. 445 MILLION)
TOTAL INCLUDING: LEBANESE UNIVERSITY, TOBACCO REGIE, SOCIAL SECURITY FUND AND STATE TELEVISION (TOGETHER LL 107.5 MILLION); PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND INSTALLATIONS (LL 525.2 MILLION); PUBLIC UTILITIES, ROADS, PORTS, AIRPORT, WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, TELEPHONE SYSTEM, PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND TRIPOLI REFINERY (TOGETHER LL 702 MILLION).

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-- PRIVATE SECTOR LOSSES: LL 6.175 BILLION (\$ U.S. 2.06 BILLION)
IN TOTAL INCLUDING INDUSTRY (LL 1.5 BILLION); COMMERCE (LL 3 BILLION); AGRICULTURE (LL 300 MILLION); TOURISM (LL 180 MILLION); HOUSING (LL 1 BILLION); OTHER SECTORS (LL 195 MILLION).

3. THE REPORT ESTIMATES LOSSES IN GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)

MEASURED IN 1974 PRICES TO HAVE BEEN LL 2.6 BILLION IN 1975 AND
LL 6 BILLION IN 1976, OR TOTAL OF LL 8.6 BILLION (\$ U.S. 2.87
BILLION) DURING THE WAR YEARS.

4. COMMENT: THE MINFINANCE REPORT PROVIDES AN OFFICIAL POINT OF
REFERENCE ON STATISTICS THAT SPOKESMEN IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT
HAVE BEEN EVOKING CREATIVELY SINCE EARLY 1977. THE REPORT'S FIGURES
FALL WITHIN RANGE OF OVERALL DIRECT WAR LOSSES ESTIMATED BY IBRD
SURVEY TEAM IN FEBRUARY-MARCH 1977 (LL 6-9 BILLION) AS WELL AS
THE SOMEWHAT CLOSER APPROXIMATION (LL 7.5-8 BILLION) PRESENTED
IN A SPEECH BY PRIME MIN HOSS TO LEBANESE MILITARY ACADEMY
DECEMBER 3, 1977. THE REPORT DATA ARE BASED ON ORIGINAL, NOT
CURRENT REPLACEMENT, VALUE. HOSS' DECEMBER SPEECH ESTIMATED
REPLACEMENT VALUE OF DIRECT LOSSES AT LL 10-12 BILLION
(\$ U.S. 3.4-4 BILLION).
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